The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information calculated to keep the reader informed.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1891 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 27

Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

BULLETIN NO. 1

(This is the second installment of the first bulletin issued by the American Federation of Labor explaining the Taft-Hartley Act. It was prepared by the office of its General Counsel, Joseph A. Padway.)

1. ARE UNIONS IMMEDIATELY LIABLE FOR ENGAGING IN BOYCOTTS, JURISDICTIONAL STRIKES OR BREACHES OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING?

Yes. Boycotts and jurisdictional strikes are dealt with in two different titles of the law, Title I and Title III. Under Title I they are made unfair labor practices which may be prohibited by the Labor Board. Then, also, the Labor Board is required to seek an immediate injunction restraining them. Under Title III any person who is injured by such boycotts and jurisdictional strikes may sue for damages. Title I does not become effective until August 22, 1947. But Title III becomes immediately effective. Therefore, boycotts and jurisdictional strikes prohibited by the law expose unions to immediate suits for damages.

Similarly, suits for breach of contract are dealt with in Title III and hence they, too, will subject unions to immediate damage suits in the federal courts. Accordingly, and for the further reason that the ability of unions to police their agreements by disciplining wrongdoers in accordance with their constitutions has been virtually destroyed under the new law, it is suggested that unions hereafter refrain from agreeing to no-strike clauses in collective bargaining agreements. We give this suggestion reluctantly, but the restrictions placed upon labor organizations under the new law leave us no alternative.

It should be noted in connection with the question of boycotts and jurisdictional strikes that the law does not prohibit every kind of boycott and every jurisdictional strike. Specifically, the act outlaws any strike or inducement to strike against an employer, or refusal to work on or handle his goods, if an object of such action is any of the following:

1. To require any employer or a self-employed person to join a labor or employer organization.

2. To require any employer to cease using, selling or transporting the products of any other employer, or to cease doing business with any other person.

3. To require some other employer to bargain with a labor organization which has not been certified by the Labor Board as the representative of that other employer's employees.

4. To require any employer to bargain with a labor organization where another labor organization has already been certified by the Labor Board as the representative of his employees.

5. To require any employer to assign particular work to employees of a nation rather than to another nation the employer is failing to comply with an existing certification).

The foregoing is a summary of what kind of jurisdictional strikes and boycotts unions cannot engage in. Other strikes against employers for pure economic objectives, such as wage increases and working conditions, remain engaged in by the unions representing the employees of such employers, are not restricted by the new law except with respect to notices discussed below.

In respect to what type of boycotts and jurisdictional strikes any union may now engage in, in spite of the provisions of the new law, it is possible at the present time in each state only as follows:

1. In those states which have no anti-picketing statutes, a union may strike or picket a particular employer for recognition as the representative of that employer's employes if no other union has been certified as the representative of such employes. But if another union has been certified for only some of the employer's employes in one unit, a union may strike to obtain representation rights in a unit composed of employes of other units.

2. Union members may, acting individually or through their union, refuse to purchase the products of an unfair employer and advise and request others to refrain from purchasing such products. They may also disseminate by appeals in the form of handbills, radio, speech, or picketing addressed solely to the employer public, respecting the unfair character of such unfair products.

3. Members of a union which has been certified as the bargaining representative may engage in a jurisdictional strike if the employer assigns their work to any other group of employees.

4. Other types of customary boycotts involving peaceful picketing and peaceful refusal to work, and as refusal to work on or transport, such action made goods or unfair products, are apparently outlawed by the new law, but the constitutionality of such a prohibition is in doubt. Test cases will undoubtedly arise in the near future, and the American Federation of Labor will coordinate and assist in such cases. In the meantime, unions are warned that violations subject them to lawsuits for damages.

The question of what boycotts and jurisdictional strikes are unlawful is a very complicated one. It will be further discussed in another bulletin to be issued in the near future. For the present the foregoing must suffice.

2. WHEN SHOULD UNIONS GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE UPON EMPLOYERS OF THE PROPOSED TERMINATION OR MODIFICATION OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS?

Title I of the new law requires any party to a collective agreement to give written notice to the other party of any proposed termination or modification 60 days prior to the expiration date of the agreement. Where the agreement has no fixed expiration date, the notice must be given 60 days prior to the time it is proposed to terminate or modify.

Parties to labor agreement are also required to give notice to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and any state mediation and conciliation Agency within 30 days after the notice to the other party if within that time no agreement has been reached.

Failure to give these notices constitutes an unfair labor practice, and any strike during the 60-day period may cause employes to lose their status as an employe, and hence his protection under the act.

Unions having agreements which will expire *after* August 22, 1947, are faced with an immediate problem. Technically, none of the amendments in Title I of the act will become effective until August 22, 1947, and, therefore, some may suggest that no notices will be required until August 22. However, if a union has a contract which expires, say, on August 24, 1947, it may be subjected to the penalties described above because it had not given timely notice to the other party to the agreement and to the conciliation agencies.

Therefore, to be on the safe side, it is recommended that all unions having agreements that will expire within 90 days after August 22, 1947, regard the notice provisions of the law as though they became effective immediately on June 23, 1947. This recommendation should not confuse those unions having agreements that will expire *before* August 22, 1947. As to such agreements, no notice whatever will be required, unless of course the agreement itself provides for notice.

(To be continued in later issues)

1947 Convention Call

TO ALL AFFILIATED UNIONS, GREETINGS:

You are hereby notified that, in pursuance of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor, the Sixty-sixth Convention of the American Federation of Labor will be held in the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, Calif., beginning at 10:00 o'clock Monday morning, October 6, 1947, and will continue in session from day to day until the business of the Convention shall have been completed.

For almost two years, since the close of World War II, the workers of our own country as well as of those throughout the world, have waited patiently for the conclusion of world peace negotiations. They crave world peace and security. Unfortunately the conferences of the Big Four representatives which have been held since V-J Day have failed to conclude an agreement providing for world peace.

How long shall the disagreement between representatives of the Big Four continue? That is the question which millions are asking now. We insist and demand that bickering shall cease, that selfishness shall be eliminated, that a fair recommendation shall be found and a world peace agreement concluded without further delay.

During the past year a concentrated drive for the enactment of anti-labor legislation in a number of states as well as in the Congress of the United States, was launched by the united enemies of our democratic labor movement. As a result highly objectionable anti-labor legislation was enacted in more than a dozen states and by the Congress of the United States. We were able to behold, as the picture unfolded, that the scattered enemies of Labor became united, centering their efforts to secure the enactment of anti-labor legislation. The laws which were enacted in the different states is of the same pattern. Most of it was directed against union shop agreements and the exercise of the right on the part of employers and employees to engage in free collective bargaining and to enter into wage agreements mutually acceptable. We can not and will not be reconciled to the acceptance of this vicious anti-labor legislation.

We are still seriously affected by the economic and industrial changes which occurred during the close of World War II. Those forces continue, and black market conditions prevail to some extent at least. We are constantly faced with a housing shortage and a demand for higher rents.

These, together with other economic, social and industrial problems must and will be considered by the delegates in attendance at the convention. In characteristic and traditional fashion, the delegates present will grapple and deal with all these problems with full appreciation of the views regarding them as a constructive, brave and courageous way.

WILLIAM GREEN, President.

GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer.

Labor Press of America Sends Call For 'Most Important' 36th Convention

Newark, N. J.—The International Labor Press of America issued its official call for its 36th annual convention to be held in Grand Rapids on October 4th. Sessions will be held at the Pantlind Hotel.

Matthew Woll, ILPA president, and Lester M. Herrmann, secretary-treasurer, in an official communication, urged all members to attend the convention which they said will be one of the "most important" in the 36-year history of the organization.

Citing the labor press as an "international force," the officials issued a defense against enemies in and out of the country. "The letter said, "Plans must be perfected to 'intensify our fight against the forces which would shackle the workers of America and foment discord among them."

All labor publications were asked to submit entries for the 1946-47 Journalistic Award Contest not later than September 15. Winners will be announced at the ILPA convention.

OHIO GOVERNOR VETOES RESTRICTIVE LABOR MEASURE

Columbus, Ohio—Gov. Thomas J. Herbert vetoed the Van Aken bill restricting the authority of labor unions, stating it was ambiguous and unworkable.

Gov. Herbert said the bill failed in its purpose to serve as a "precautionary statute to the Taft-Hartley Act "with which act I am in full accord."

AFL President William Green urged the veto action at the Ohio State Federation of Labor which fought hard but unsuccessfully to prevent enactment of the bill by the state legislature.

The bill restricted picketing, outlawed secondary strikes, and required annual financial reports by unions to the state and to any unionists requesting them.

COMMUNICATION WORKERS VOTE FOR ALF AFFILIATION

Chicago.—Fifty-five percent of the members of the Communication Workers of America, CIO, Inc., which represents 22,000 employes of Hawthorne works of Western Electric Company, voted to join the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL.

Andrew F. Haeussler, union secretary-treasurer, said the vote was taken by mail after the union's executive board had voted unanimously in favor of affiliation with the AFL group.

Meanwhile, Edwin B. Hackett, president of the Commercial Telegraphers Union, AFL, said that his members, who are employed in the commercial department of Illinois Bell Telephone Company, also were voting on whether to affiliate with the AFL.

New Coal Contract Ratified; UMW Makes Greatest Gain

Union Heads Plan Course Under Taft-Hartley Act

Washington, D. C.—More than 250 representatives of the 105 national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor gathered in the nation's capital to consult and decide upon a course of action with regard to the harsh provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

They were all of confusion with regard to the actual effects of the new law upon the day to day operations and the long range objectives of labor unions. President William Green announced he would call upon AFL Chief Counsel Padway for a detailed analysis of each provision and obligation imposed upon labor.

Mr. Green will make a brief opening address in which he will voice the determination of the AFL leadership to fight for the protection of the organizations' 7,600,000 members by every possible means. He already has announced plans to challenge the legality of the Taft-Hartley Act in the courts, to fight for the protection of labor's rights in contract negotiations with employers and to set in motion an all-out political drive in the 1948 campaign to defeat every congressman who voted the Taft-Hartley Bill into law.

After the meeting ended it is expected that the officials of the unions attending the conference will discuss the formation of policies to carry out these objectives. In fighting mood, most of them expressed ire bent on refusing to yield any of labor's hard-won gains, no matter how long it may take to overturn the harsh provisions of the law.

Woll Says Moderate Wage Increases And Lower Prices Will Prevent Slump

Washington, D. C.—Matthew Woll, AFL vice-president, told a Congressional committee that wage increases coupled with price decreases are required to prevent recession and to restore the proper balance in price, profit and wage relationships.

In testimony before the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, Woll said:

"The American Federation of Labor is convinced that the feast and famine days of American industry which in general has allowed prices and profits to climb to new heights denied heights that consumer buying power is dangerously lagging will inevitably lead to economic recession unless corrective action is taken immediately.

"We do not mean that in the case of each individual firm, prices and profits are exorbitant while wages are depressed. However, when the actions of each segment of our economy are added up, the aggregate figures have startling implications. Let me illustrate:

"1944 was the wartime highpoint in the nation's wages and salaried workers. Since that time wages have sharply risen, but wage rates are illusory things. Because of reduced overtime hours, and shifts to lower wage industries, average weekly earnings and total income payments in the form of wages and salaries dropped from that wartime peak.

"Average weekly earnings for factory workers were $47.50 in January 1946—the wartime peak. This figure dropped from this level it was not until April of this year that average weekly earnings again reached this amount.

"Department of Commerce figures indicate that income payments in the form of wages and salaries dropped from 116.0 billion dollars in 1944, to 105.2 billion dollars in 1946—a decline of 10 percent.

"But during this same period between 1944 and 1946, the consumer's dollar purchased 25.3 percent from 94.1 billion to 80.2 billion dollars, it turned out to be a loss of 14.0 billion dollars. Wages declined 10 percent from 9.9 to 12.0 billion dollars.

"These figures give some indication as to who was responsible for the increase in the consumers' price index of 23.9 percent between 1944 and May, 1947.

"Obviously we do not contend that business could operate without making a profit, but we do contend that many segments of industry are following a price-profit policy that is rapidly pricing their products out of the market and must inevitably lead to production cutbacks, unemployment, and eventual recession. If industry as a whole could make and sell large profits in a year characterized by wide overcapacity production and price controls during the better part of the year, other profit margins due to unprecedented heights in 1947 with consequent boost on a new wage price policy must be instituted with more reasonable profits but a maintaining stable mass market."

Mr. Woll warned that food prices are due for a rise. The present pressure for wage increases is to be avoided. Experts say that a wage increase spends about a third of his income for food. A 10% increase in food price increase will necessarily require demand for wage goods. This in turn, will have serious implications for the stabilization of "full" production and employment.

Green Urges Labor Representation On New Local Rent Control Boards

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green urged all State Federations of Labor to press for the appointment of labor representatives to local advisory boards to be set up under the new Housing and Rent Act, which goes into effect July 1. The local rent controls we have under this law depends on these boards," Mr. Green said in a letter to the Labor Federations of Labor. "Do your utmost to have good labor representatives to the Housing Expediter by your Governor. Write your Governor at once to make sure that labor is well represented on each rental area advisory board. Rent control is the only remedy we have at present and there is rising costs for our workers."

Harry C. Bates, Chairman of the AFL Housing Committee, likewise sent all of the Federations of Labor a press for the appointment of labor representatives to the Rent Advisory Boards. He said:

"Unquestionably the well-organized interest groups who have long fought to cripple any form of rent control will quickly made their recommendations to the Governor. Workers and their families will be the ones to suffer if the wrong persons are appointed to these local boards. It is up to your Central Labor Unions, therefore, to give immediate action in recommending qualified labor representatives for service on these boards.

"President Green has written to all State Federations of Labor asking them to receive recommendations from our Central Labor Unions in each locality for appointments by the Governor. Please write without delay to the Governor and to the Administration of Labor giving him the name of your choice for labor members. Labor representatives you propose for service on these boards must be unquestionably pro-rent control and pro-tenant. Rents are a big part of the present high cost of living; we must exert every effort to keep them down. Make your appointments to the boards. Rents are a big part of the present high cost of living; we must exert every effort to keep them down. Make your appointments as effective as possible under the present law. That will depend on the character of the men appointed to the local advisory boards."

NLRB Calls Upon Regional Offices To Clean Up Backlog of 4,300 Cases

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board directed its regional offices to process as soon as possible all of the 4,300 cases now on file that can be handled under provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The offices were directed to serve promptly upon the parties copies of any charge filed against a union, in accord with the law's provision that no complaint shall issue based upon an unfair labor practice occurring more than six months before the filing of the charge with the board.

The field offices were advised not to accept employer charges of unfair labor practices against unions until August 22, the effective date of this section of the law. Similarly, action on requests against unions for injunctions should not be accepted until that date.

Since the law bans protection to supervisors, the offices were asked to dismiss at once all petitions seeking certification of units involving such employes. Those concerning guards, whose organizing is now restricted, must be considered with Washington.

The field agents will not make a complete record in craft union cases and those involving professional employes.

The law states that the board "shall not * * * decide that any craft unit is inappropriate for (collective bargaining) on the ground that a different unit has been established by a prior board determination unless a majority of the employes in the proposed craft unit vote against separate representation."

The new act prevents the NLRB from naming a unit for bargaining which consists both of professional employes and non-professional employes unless a majority of the former vote for inclusion in such a unit.

In deciding on the form from practice cases it was directed that all current practices should be followed.

Cases for which hearings have not begun will be recommended and if the alleged violations constitute illegal conduct under the act as amended, hearings may be scheduled. All other cases should be sent to the Washington office with recommendations.

No further prehearing elections will be scheduled since the act bans this practice for handling elections. But prehearing elections in which notices of election have issued may be concluded unless some categories of employes otherwise excluded by the act are involved.

Representation cases field offices were requested not to submit to the board employes of the record, preferring with the law's ban on such recommendations.

Regional offices will not allow any further consultation but will complete those provided by existing procedure, except where it is a device whereby a company and a union seek to avoid a collective agreement by a payroll check of employes designation of the union as bargaining representative.

The offices were ordered to comply with the act's provision banning any election in any bargaining unit within three months of a valid election.

Employes who are on strike against certification and economic strikers whose places are filled, and so not entitled to reinstatement, shall not be eligible to vote.

Unions Urged to Form Cooperatives As Only Means of Reducing Prices

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor called upon its members to establish cooperative stores, credit unions, and factories as the only effective means of reducing prices.

Citing the need for lower prices and increased purchasing power for workers to maintain "full production" and "full employment," the AFL's Labor's Monthly Survey declared, "By establishing consumers' cooperatives we can mobilize our buying power to achieve these goals."

The AFL report said, "We cannot afford to wait. Almost every AFL member spends at least $800 a year on food necessities. These dollars, spent in cooperative stores, will fight for lower prices and quality. Our 7,500,000 members, buying in consumer cooperatives and saving a penny a dollar, can be an immense power for good."

"The AFL has repeatedly said that the forces of competition would reduce prices when enough goods are produced to meet the demand," the report said. "But today many factories are cutting production while prices hold at high levels.

"This year's experience has proved beyond doubt that the profit motive is not bring prices down. There has been no significant decline in the general level of either industrial or consumer goods prices.

In support of its position, the Survey cited the experience of farmers in holding fertilizer prices down through the organization of farmers' cooperatives to produce and distribute that commodity. Significantly, the report declared, the price of fertilizer has risen at a relatively low rate since prices were rising." During the year 1946 the increase was only about 11 percent in the face of a 28 percent increase in general industrial prices.

AFL RADIO OFFICERS WIN 'BROAD INCREASES' IN PAY

New York City.—The Radio Officers Union, AFL, announced the signing of contracts with 22 companies for its 45 contract steamship liner call-ing on the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf radio men. The new scale ranges from $272 to $275 a month, depending on the classification of the vessels, according to Fred M. Howe, general secretary-treasurer of the union.

Mr. Howe said that "as far as we are able to determine, this is the best wage scale paid to radio officers in the United States."

He estimated that the scale of new terms would apply to 85 percent of the major steamship lines operating out of the Port of New York and Gulf ports.

FACTORY EMPLOYMENT SLIGHTLY SAFER NOW

Washington, D. C.—If you work in a factory, your chances of being killed or injured are less than a year ago, the Department of Labor reported today.

The accident rate in manufacturing, the Department said, declined from 18.2 disabling injuries for each million employe-hours worked in the first quarter of 1946 to 16 in the same period of 1947.

However, because of sharply increased employment over a year ago, and longer hours worked, the total number of persons injured rose by 19,000 to 127,000 for the quarter. Of these, 400 died and 5,000 suffered permanent disabilities.

Large Pay Boost, Cut in Hours, Welfare Hike, Are Reported

Washington, D. C.—The United Mine Workers Union signed a new contract, described as the "most beneficial" in the union's history, and voted to return to work immediately in the Northern coal mines.

At the same time it was reported that the Southern operators, who formed the basis of the stand-up opposition to the UMWA's terms, would be forced to accept the union's terms pressure and accept the same contract within a few days.

Thus the threat of a nation-wide soft coal strike vanished and the coal miners gained the greatest collective bargaining advance in years.

Pay increases provided for in the new pact are 40 cents an hour and $3.06 a day. A new basic daily wage of $18.35 is established and working hours are reduced from 9 to 8 with the lunch period increased from 15 minutes to a half hour. In addition, UMWW Psychiatrists were gained a 100 percent increase in the royalty paid for the miners' health and welfare fund.

The UMW also won relief of the harsh terms of the Taft-Hartley Act by the inclusion of a clause stating that contracts shall exist when they are "able and willing to work," and by the inclusion of "no strike" penalty clauses and the "no strike" guarantee clauses in the union's contract. The dues check-off is continued, but on a voluntary basis, in accordance to the requirements of the new law.

The UMW Policy Committee unanimously ratified at a night meeting the new contract between Lewis and the Northern Coal Operators after a full day's weekend. No working time was lost because the miners had worked Friday's contract with the Government and the negotiation of the new contract with the private employers because the miners were on their annual vacation during the interim.

The agreement provides a wage increase of 45 cents an hour for the miners and other underground classifications.

The agreement calls for a one-year contract although the operators had asked for a two-year agreement.

Other terms are as follows:

A six-and-a-half-hour workday at the face of the coal. This is arranged by having an eight-hour day from portal to portal in place of the present seven hours. This would cover about one hour for travel time to the working ground and one hour for lunch. The present lunch period is half hour.

The union welfare fund will be raised. At present 10 cents a ton is deducted for this fund. At the 1947 contract the new deduction will be $30,000,000 a year. The new agreement will provide about $60,000,000 a year.

The operators agreed to the Federal safety code.

The contract makes permanent the welfare fund originated under the 1946 agreement with the Federal government. It will be administered by a board of trustees, with members composed of union and employer representatives and a neutral party selected by them. Mr. Lewis was designated labor member of the board and Tom Ven Horn, the employers' trustee.

It was agreed that money collected under the previous welfare fund agreement shall be transferred to the new board of trustees.

HEALTH INSURANCE TOPIC FOR AFL RADIO PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—The question, "Should Congress Adopt National Health Insurance?" will be discussed on the July 12th program of the new AFL series of weekly radio broadcasts over the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Company.

Participants in the discussion will be Senator Glen H. Taylor of Idaho, Dr. Chauncey Tinker Ingham, Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital and Chairman of the Committee on Health Insurance, and Nelson Cruikshank, the AFL's Social Insurance Director.

The program originates in Washington and is broadcast at 6:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Local newspapers should be inquired of for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

ILLINOIS FEDERATION DEFEATS LABOR LAWS

Springfield, Ill.—Vigorous action by the Illinois Federation of Labor prevented the passage of anti-labor legislation by the General Assembly which adjourned its regular session.

Reuben G. Soderstrom, president of the Illinois Federation, announced that not a single one of eighteen anti-labor bills designed to restrict or cripple union activities was passed by either chamber of the state legislature.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

BULLETIN NO. 1

Part III

(This is the final installment of the first bulletin issued by the American Federation of Labor explaining the Taft-Hartley Act. It was prepared by the office of its General Counsel, Joseph A. Padway.)

6. MAY UNIONS BE GUILTY OF UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES BEFORE AUGUST 22, 1947?

No. As indicated above, Title I of the act does not become effective prior to August 22, 1947. However, to avoid any misunderstanding, we repeat that unlawful boycotts, jurisdictional strikes and breaches of agreements are dealt with in Title III and may subject unions to respective damage suits; and we repeat, too, our recommendation respecting termination or modification of agreements that expire within 59 days *after* August 22, 1947.

7. WHAT REPORTS, AFFIDAVITS, ETC., MUST UNIONS FILE BEFORE THEY MAY SECURE ANY RELIEF FROM THE LABOR BOARD?

As before stated, Title I which establishes the new Labor Board, prescribes an "*expenditure*" in connection with the filing of reports and affidavits under unfair practices for unions, and requires the filing of such reports and affidavits as a condition of obtaining relief under the act, is not effective until August 22, 1947. Therefore, there is no need to be immediately concerned with the filing of reports and affidavits, because these need not be filed until August 22. Further information and advice concerning the filing of such reports will be sent out in a subsequent bulletin.

8. WHAT LIMITATIONS DOES THE LAW IMPOSE ON THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF LABOR UNIONS?

Labor organizations as such (but not officers or members thereof acting personally and on their own behalf) are prohibited from making any contribution or "*expenditure*" in connection with the election of any federal legislator such as Senator, Congressman or other federal official. This prohibition applies to regular elections, primary elections, political conventions and political caucuses involving federal candidates. The prohibition clearly forbids direct or outright money contributions to a political candidate and also includes a contribution of anything of value as a donation made directly to the candidate, and the use of one's own use, of literature, radio time, paid ads, use of meeting halls for speeches to the public (but not speeches to union members), etc.

Thus far the act is clear. However, by the addition to the above italicized word "expenditure" to the previously existing law, it may be claimed that the prohibition extends to any type of contribution whatsoever made in connection with any federal political election or nomination, such as, for instance, expenditure of money by a labor organization to publish a labor newspaper setting forth a candidate's qualifications, or the history of his record, or the printing of radio time or newspaper space for a union's own use to urge the election or defeat of a political candidate. If that is the intent of Congress in amending the Corrupt Practices Act, then the act is clearly unconstitutional as an invasion of the freedom of speech and press guaranteed by a civil liberty under the First Amendment of the Constitution. In fact, it is our firm opinion that the law as so applied would be illegal and unconstitutional as an invasion of the freedom of speech and press guaranteed by a civil liberty under the First Amendment of the Constitution. In recently declaring unconstitutional a comparable law proposed for referendum in the State of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, stated as follows:

> "But under the proposed law the political activities of labor unions are not regulated or curbed but are substantially destroyed. Deprived of the right to pay any sum of money for the rental of a hall in which to hold a public rally or debate, or for printing or circulating pamphlets, or for advertising rally or debate, or for buying radio time, a union could not carry on any newspapers, or for buying radio time, a union could not carry on any substantial and effective political activity. It could not get its message to the electorate. Its rights of free speech and of peaceable assembly would be crippled." (*Howe v. Secretary of the Commonwealth*, 69 N. E. (2) 113, decided September 15, 1946.)

Under the Bill of Rights any union whose purpose it is to further its own social and economic program by seeking the election of candidates favorable to such program and the defeat of candidates unfavorable to such program has full freedom to use the facilities of the union, and to spend money to accomplish its objective, and no law can flatly and unqualifiedly destroy this freedom.

We therefore advise that, in connection with either a caucus, convention, primary election or final election, labor organizations may expend such funds as they desire to compile and circulate records of candidates for public office and to the public the voting records, speeches, or other statements of federal candidates; the unions may purchase radio time to discuss the merits or demerits of candidates and their platform in relation to labor's welfare; unions may print or have printed newspaper ads or articles containing similar discussions; they may send officers and organizers to make speeches at union as well as public meetings and may pay for advertising and hall rent at such meetings; they may even invite a candidate to appear at such meeting if the purpose is to have him explain his position on matters of interest to labor. In short, labor unions may continue to engage in all the ordinary activities (except, of course, direct contributions to political candidates as above stated) which in the past had customarily been engaged in to date as discussed above and as to the extent the union's purpose is to further its own social and economic program and when such activities are undertaken without agreement or arrangement with any candidate.

AFL Broadcast Schedule

Washington, D. C.—Discussion topics for the next three AFL radio programs broadcast over the nationwide American Broadcasting Company are as follows:

July 19th—"How Can We Get Better Housing?" Speakers include Representative A. Carroll of Colorado, J. C. Turner, Housing Representative of the Washington, D. C., Central Labor Union, and Boris Shishkin, AFL economist.

July 26th—"Is Another Depression Coming Soon?" Participants will be Leon H. Keyserling, economic consultant to President Truman's Advisors; Russell Smith, Washington Representative of the National Farmers Union and Boris Shishkin, AFL economist.

August 2d—"How Does Labor View the Record of the 80th Congress?" Speakers include Robert J. Watt, AFL International Representative; Henry Kaiser, AFL Associate Counsel, and Phil Pearl, AFL Information Director.

The AFL broadcasts originate in Washington at 6:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Consult your local newspaper for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

Wage Discrimination Against Women Banned Under Proposed Senate Bill

Washington, D. C.—A bill to eliminate wage differentials based upon sex was introduced by Senators Claude Pepper of Florida and Wayne Morse of Oregon.

The bill would make it an unfair wage practice to discriminate in payment of wages between the sexes for comparable quality and quantity of production on similar operations.

Discriminatory wage practices, it declares, against women, the sponsoring Senators said in a joint statement, "fly in the face of demands of ordinary justice, depress wages and living standards for all employes, both men and women; cut into the living standards of women workers and the families dependent on them, and prevent the maximum utilization of our available labor resources so necessary for full production, full employment and full purchasing power."

"New factors in the American economic scene make even more imperative new corrective legislation to eliminate discriminatory wage practices based on sex," they continued.

"Growing unemployment increases the tendency to lower women's rates of pay with consequent lowering of men's rates and the entire wage structure in industry, with serious consequences to living standards and purchasing standards.

"Soaring prices make imperative the elimination of wage practices that further worsen the living conditions of working me nand women.

"With the Taft-Hartley Law on the statute books, creating greater obstacles in peaceful settlement of workers' grievances, it is all the more important to eliminate wage differentials based on sex as one cause of labor disputes."

AFL National Union Heads Pledge Vigorous Fight To Repeal Labor Act and Vote Out Its Supporters

Report Says Law Will Weaken and Destroy Labor Unions

Washington, D. C.—The text of the policy statement adopted unanimously by a special conference of national and international officers follows:

A strong moving desire on the part of working men and women for the realization of higher standards of living has served to establish and stimulate the growth and expansion of labor unions. The progress and development of labor unions have run parallel to the steady ever-increasing demand of the workers for higher wages, improved conditions of employment, security and social justice.

The said experience has proven that the labor union is the instrumentality which served to promote the economic, social and industrial welfare of the workers everywhere. Even nonunion workers have been the beneficiaries of the gains made by the organized labor movement.

The organization of working men and women means the mobilization of their economic strength so that they may substitute collective action for individual action. The material, education, and cultural welfare of all classes of people depend upon an adequate financial income. This means wages high enough to enable them to maintain themselves in decency and comfort and to establish a standard of living commensurate with the requirements of American citizenship.

This is a noble objective. It squares with the highest ideals of the human race. Such an economic and social order would serve to promote our free democratic form of government, to prevent the spread of Communism, or the acceptance of any totalitarian philosophy and to preserve peace.

Apparently the authors and supporters of the Taft-Hartley anti-labor law ignored all these facts. Their actions must be interpreted as meaning that strong serviceable labor unions must not be permitted to exist within our economic and social life, that only weak and impotent labor unions shall be allowed to survive and that labor may have a shadow of a labor movement but not the substance.

This fact is reflected in every word, line, sentence and paragraph of the notorious Taft-Hartley law. It seeks to weaken, render impotent, and destroy labor unions. It is a law striking a vital blow at free collective bargaining and substitutes the process of government domination over employer-employe relationships. The negotiation of closed shop agreements, union security, and the numerous limitations and prescribed methods which must be followed regarding union membership are all designed to make it impossible for labor unions to live and function effectively.

In addition to the elimination of Unfair Labor Practices in this Act, some stated and others implied unfair employers charge against labor unions, the Act provides that damage suits may be instituted for alleged violation of contracts and there is established the abhorrent principle and practice of government by injunction. The Act also provides for and supported the Taft-Hartley Act to effectively destroy labor unions. We made crystal clear in this provision of the law.

The revision and reconstruction of the National Labor Relations Board has created confusion and uncertainty. Its basic principles will not be clearly understood until it has been defined by the courts. Employers and employes will vehemently differ as to the final meaning of the provisions of the revised and newly created National Labor Relations Board Act. All this will serve to promote strife between employers and employes, the expenditure of large sums of money in court proceedings and a world of lack of cooperation between management and labor. President Truman emphasized this fact in his veto message when he stated:

> "I find that the National Labor Relations Act would be converted from an instrument with the primary purpose of protecting the rights of workers to organize, inevitably and directly into a mass of pitfalls and complex procedures. As a result of these complexities employers and workers would find new barriers to mutual understandings.
>
> "The bill time and again would remove the settlement of differences from the bargaining table to the courts of law. Instead of learning to live together, employers and workers are invited to engage in costly, time-consuming litigation, inevitably embittering both parties."

Here the President set forth in simple language the evils of the new National Labor Relations Board and the great disservice of human relations in industry which is bound to follow the enforcement of said amended National Labor Relations Act. Because the amendments to the National Labor Relations Act, as set forth in the Taft-Hartley Bill, are susceptible to varied interpretations and are confusing to the highest degree, we would prefer to National Labor Relations Board than the National Labor Relations Board with its administrative authority as set forth in the Taft-Hartley Act.

The Taft-Hartley Law is filled with traps, Red Herrings, and booby traps to the officers and members of labor unions. The Taft-Hartley Law is a Taft-Hartley Law virtually declare "Labor Unions in the United States must be made weak and ineffective. Their ability to secure a decent living and preserve economic freedom and to establish higher standards of living for the wage earners of the United States must be limited and defined."

The purpose of the Taft-Hartley Bill which provides that it shall be unlawful for any labor organization to make a contribution or expenditure in connection with the election of members of Congress, strikes a vital blow at freedom of speech and freedom of press. This section must be interpreted as meaning that the supporters of the Taft-Hartley Bill sought to make it a crime for labor to exercise the right of freedom of the press and freedom of speech to prevent them from being reelected to Congress.

The unconstitutionality of this section is reflected in the fact that it prohibits any labor union from publication or any labor organization who publishes for the sale of literature or speech or freedom of the press in connection with the election of those who voted for the Taft-Hartley Bill for reelection, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and liable to a fine of $5,000 or imprisonment, or both. The unconstitutionality of this section is reflected the hatred of Members of Congress for anything which tends to live and function effectively.

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Pledge of AFL Union Chiefs

Washington, D. C.—The following pledge is an excerpt from the policy statement adopted unanimously by the emergency conference of AFL national and international union officials:

> **1. Because we believe many of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Bill are unconstitutional, we will challenge the validity of said sections in the courts. In doing so, we shall avail ourselves of the opportunity to appeal in accordance with court procedure to the Supreme Court of the United States. We shall exhaust every legal recourse at our command in the effort to put forth to test the validity of this Act.**
>
> **2. The repeal of this notorious legislation shall be our fixed objective. We shall never be reconciled to the acceptance of this legislation. We shall oppose it—fight it at every step and vote against every candidate who will not support our efforts to bring about its repeal. Our action in this matter is justified by the fact that we regard the Taft-Hartley Bill as a slave measure, un-American, vicious and destructive of labor's constitutional rights.**
>
> **3. We will organize, unite and concentrate our efforts toward bringing about the defeat of every member of Congress for reelection who voted "in favor of final enactment of the Taft-Hartley Bill.**
>
> **4. The unions' present constitutional rights to institute suits for damages and other vexatious and destructive litigation under this law, it is recommended that no-strike provisions be omitted from all future agreements, written or oral.**
>
> **5. In order that the workers of the Nation may be accorded a full opportunity to express their will in the National elections, we have given full and complete consideration to the declaration of this conference and in addition prepare for the consideration of the next convention of the American Federation of Labor a program giving full effect to these purposes.**

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION SAYS WORKERS' OUTPUT UP

New York City.—Bosses themselves in many industries are now conceding that labor productivity is rising. The National Industrial Conference Board, a business research organization, has so reported on the basis of a nation-wide poll among industrial executives.

At lease two out of five companies believed that productivity per man-hour is greater than a year ago. The increase ranged from 10 to 30 per cent. Many firms also reported that "quality of output has improved notably."

AFL AUTOMOBILE WORKERS WIN BARGAINING ELECTION

Carrollton, Ky.—The AFL's United Automobile Workers won an important NLRB election when workers at the Carrollton Manufacturing Company here chose the AFL union as their bargaining agent.

Overcoming stiff opposition put up by CIO supporters during a vigorous pre-election campaign, the UAW became the first recognized labor union in Carrollton.

DISABLED CIVILIANS AIDED BY FED. SECURITY AGENCY

Washington, D. C.—Disabled civilians will be paying jobs at the rate of about 40,000 a year according to estimates by the Federal Security Agency.

The average cost of their rehabilitation for productive work under a program authorized by Congress is $300 each.

Earnings of disabled folk who were rehabilitated in 1946 totaled almost 400 percent. From a total of about $11,000,000 which they applied for aid, their annual earnings jur ped to $56,500,000 after treatment.

GROUP OK'S GI BOND-CASH BILL

Washington, D. C.—The House Armed Services Committee unanimously approved legislation allowing former service men to cash their terminal pay bonds starting September 1.

There are about 9,000,000 bonds outstanding with a face value of $1,800,000,000 and bearing 2½ percent interest annually. Under the 1946 law authorizing them they cannot be redeemed until five years after their issuance.

Emergency Conference Adopts Unanimously 6-Point Program Calling for Action In Courts and With Ballots

Washington, D. C.—Top officials of all AFL national and international unions received unanimously to fight for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and for the ouster from office of all members of Congress who voted for it.

Summoned to an emergency conference by AFL President Green, 200 representatives of the 105 AFL affiliates adopted a 6-point declaration of purpose prepared by a committee of AFL vice-presidents.

"The repeal of this notorious legislation shall be our fixed objective," the declaration said. "We regard the measure as vicious and destructive to labor's constitutional rights."

Maintaining that many of the act's provisions are unconstitutional, the report proclaimed that "we shall exhaust every legal recourse at our command in the efforts we put forth to test the validity of this Act."

The union chiefs resolved to defeat at the polls every member of Congress who voted "in favor of final enactment of the Taft-Hartley Bill."

The statement pledged opposition to the use of injunction against unions and other "vexatious and destructive litigation" under the law, "no-strike" provisions be omitted from all future agreements, written or oral.

The committee proposed that AFL affiliates set aside next election day as a holiday to be devoted solely to election purposes.

The committee's report recommended that the AFL Executive Council "give full and complete consideration to the actions of this Conference" and prepare a definite program of action for consideration by the AFL Convention to be held next October at San Francisco.

AFL President William Green opened the meeting with a brief address. He said the "unfortunate Taft-Hartley Act" was the result of a determined attack by labor's enemies to weaken and destroy unions. Urging a ceaseless attack upon the anti-labor law, Green declared: "The rights of labor" must be heard again. The Act gives labor an impetus to united purpose, he declared.

Mr. Green lauded the following speakers at the conference: Executive Vice-Presidents Matthew Woll, David Dubinsky, William L. Hutcheson, Daniel J. Tobin and Harry C. Bates, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany.

Most of the conference was devoted to an extensive analysis of the main provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act presented by Chief Counsel Joseph A. Padway.

Mr. Padway declared government interference in labor matters "is now a reality."

Framers of the law, he said, deliberately designed the provisions protecting labor's rights to be "meaningless" and "impossible of fulfillment" to be enforced effectively. Mr. Padway predicted that with the additional weight assigned the National Labor Relations Board it would fail in the five years behind even if it had 50 members. Labor will be penalized by this inability of the NLRB to function effectively, he said.

The new law, the AFL attorney declared, cuts the heart out of the Wagner Act and creates greater dangers for unions than they stand to gain from seeking to function under it.

"If unions could bypass the NLRB and do without it, I am here to state they will be better off," Padway maintained.

He referred briefly to the provision of the law banning union expenditures for political purposes, stating flatly that its section is unconstitutional.

"The American Federation of Labor has violated that section already," he said, "by printing the roll-call vote on the overriding of the President's veto. I'm glad they did. This provision is patently unconstitutional and I don't think it can be held otherwise by the courts."

New Law's 'Unworkable' Provisions Deliberately Designed, Says Padway

Washington, D. C.—In an exhaustive analysis of the outstanding provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, Chief Counsel Joseph A. Padway told the delegates to the AFL emergency conference just how drastically their unions and their members will be affected.

The law, at the same time, makes it "next to impossible" for labor to fight back, he declared.

"Framers of the law, he said, deliberately designed it to be "unworkable" and "impossible of fulfillment" to be enforced effectively.

"The Taft-Hartley Act has been piled upon the National Labor Relations Board, the AFL attorney declared. "Even when it the Board had fifty members it could not function in the next five years behind in the handling of cases. This, he continued, was a perfect scheme on the part of those who framed the law to destroy the machinery break down. Employers would be benefited, Padway pointed out, by the inability of the NLRB to function effectively.

The new law, Padway emphasized, cuts the heart out of the Wagner Act and creates greater dangers for unions than they stand to gain from seeking to function under the Act.

"If unions could bypass the NLRB and do without it, I am here to state they will be better off," Padway declared.

The obligation upon employers to bargain collectively is rendered "absolutely worthless," Padway pointed out, by a provision in the Taft-Hartley Act which says employers shall not have to "make any concessions."

The AFL counsel discussed at great length the various aspects of the union security provisions of the law and advised the union representatives of the hazardous penalties they can become liable to if they seek and obtain authorized union-shop agreements. Chief of these, he pointed out, is the elimination of any union authority to enforce membership, except for non-payment of dues or initiation fees.

CONCILIATION CHIEF RESIGNS

Washington, D. C.—Labor Secretary Schwellenbach announced the resignation of Edgar L. Warren, director of the Federal Conciliation and Mediation Service. The resignation is effective at the close of the new Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created by the Taft-Hartley Act, assumes office, but in no event later than August 22.

Secretary Schwellenbach, in his letter accepting Mr. Warren's resignation, said that the Conciliation Service, under Mr. Warren's leadership, "contributed in large measure to the improvement of industrial relations in our country" during the period of reconversion.

AFL'S CHICAGO ELEVATOR OPERATORS WIN WAGE HIKE

Chicago.—About 2,000 elevator operators received wage increases of 10 cents an hour, Martin J. Dwyer, president of Local 66 of the AFL's Chicago Elevator Operators and Starters Union, announced.

In the new contract, signed with the Chicago Building Managers Association, starters, assistant starters and night operators receive increases of 15 cents an hour. The new hourly rate for operators will be $1.10 and the men will be paid for four hours of relief time a week plus time and a half after 40 hours work.